



30 March 2022

**Marine Ecology Assessment of potential environmental impacts from the proposed installation of a new swimming pool extending out beyond the seawall to the MHW at 167 Riverview Road, Avalon Beach**

I, Rick Johnson (Director of Waterfront Surveys Australia Pty Ltd) conducted a Marine Habitat Survey for Mr Simon Ehrlich at his property of 167 Riverview Road, Avalon Beach ("The Property") on 17 May 2021. This on-site survey was conducted for a separate development for a jetty, ramp and pontoon on the southern side of the existing boatshed. The location of the proposed new swimming pool fell within the scope and survey area of the May 2021 site survey.

This new development plans to construct an elevated swimming pool which would straddle the existing seawall, and extending a maximum of 3.9 m beyond the seawall out to as far as the MHW at points. The new pool would be located 5.5 m south of the existing boatshed deck, and extend a total of 12.4 m further south. The proposed construction works would include:

- the replacement of the existing seawall with a matching sandstone block seawall along the 12.4 m length of the proposed new pool;
- the installation of several new concrete support piers along the outer edge of the pool (behind the MHW), thus allowing the high tide to flow in under the pool; and
- no structures or construction works located in the subtidal zone at The Property.

The intertidal habitats within the area of the proposed new pool consist of a sandstone block seawall fronted by an extensive, low profile, intertidal rock platform (which extended approximately 14 m offshore of the seawall). The base of the seawall was colonised by low numbers of small periwinkles (*Nodilittorina unifasciata*). The rock platform had two intertidal zones of biota - the proposed pool and the support piers would be located in the upper zone. The upper intertidal zone (extending 5 m out from the seawall) was colonised by low numbers of periwinkles (*Austrocochlea porcata*, *Bembicium nanum* and *Nodilittorina unifasciata*) and mulberry whelks (*Morula marginalba*). There was no algae colonising the upper zone of the rock platform.

The environmental assessment of the development is that the proposed replacement of the seawall and installation of new concrete pool support piers would not have any negative impacts on the marine habitats or ecology at The Property. It is expected that the same periwinkles would utilise the new seawall habitat. As a benefit, it is expected that the new concrete support piers (above the MHWM at the site) would provide a new artificial habitat at The Property which would be colonised over time by an assemblage of intertidal flora and fauna typical of this area of Pittwater. As there would be no disturbance to the sandy subtidal seabed, there would be no increase in turbidity which has the potential to impact nearby seagrass communities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. Johnson', written in a cursive style.

Rick Johnson

Director

**Photos of the seawall and intertidal rock platform in the location of the proposed new pool**

